

**NEWTON YOUTH COMMISSION Meeting**  
**October 1, 2014 MINUTES**  
**Location: Senior Center**

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Present:	Jessica Tharaud, Anton Malin, SeungWan Kang, Eliza Beth, Eli Lerner, Benji Cole, John Kusiak, Mira Li, Alexa Lyons, Meirose Neal, Hannah Lass
Staff:	Jennifer O'Higgins, Jenna Olson
Advisory Board Adults:	Matt Green, John Panica, Jay Harney, Kathy Marchi, Chris Hardiman, Joe DeVito, Marcy Davidson, Susan Swick, Heather Byrns, Ellie Goldman
Guests:	Tom Pomeroy, Elliot Sackman

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The meeting was opened at 6:38 PM by Chairperson, SeungWan Kang.

Motion to accept the minutes from September meeting accepted. Benji Cole volunteered to be secretary next month.

**Budget Report:**

Budget for the year: \$2,500

Balance: \$2,500

**Business:**

Voter Registration Project--Presented by Elliot Sackman

- Continued discussion by asking for youth commission members to encourage 18 year olds to register and vote and to help register high school students during lunch.
- Students expressed interest. Eliza Beth and SeungWan Kang will be primary points of contact with Elliot for this project.
- Deadline for registration is October 15 for November 4<sup>th</sup> election. Tables for registration will also be held at high schools and the library in the spring.

Ideas, Action, Leadership Initiative:

- Brief overview of this web-based platform with additional monthly village meetings in order to engage adult and youth communities, including promoting communication about health and wellbeing.
- Initiative can be used to promote teen health and wellbeing, raise awareness about Youth Commission events and to have people send in issues they would like to see addressed at the next Summit.
- Code Red App: could be used by teens if it was tailored to them or school ie: get this app and you'll know first if there is a snow day.
- Discussion of logistics: anonymity, responsibilities of Youth Commission for youth concerns and ensuring follow through with resolutions.
- In addition to the events in the villages, there could be events for the high school population – "the High School Village" where Youth Commissioners could attend if appropriate.
- Invite Mayor Warren back for November or December meeting to discuss.

#### Youth Commission Ordinance

- Possible changes include: ensuring members are residents or attending school in Newton, clarification on age- high school age youth who have not accepted a diploma yet or equivalent. Efforts to be as inclusive as possible.
- Should a chair be elected?
- Revise language pronouns to be gender neutral
- Clarify term length- 1 year, may serve 4 consecutive terms
- General objective: to strive for diversity wherever possible (grades, age, school, gender, villages).
- Re-visit possibility of having more than 7 commissioners and having alternates at next meeting.

#### Announcement: John Panica

- Paddy's Road Race- call for volunteers

Next meeting date is November 12<sup>th</sup>.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:52pm

**Respectfully submitted by Jenny O'Higgins, Director of Youth Services**